

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine
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B. E. P. Q. 474
(Supersedes H. B. 161 and
supplements P. Q. C. A. 309)

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METHOD USED FOR THE DISINFECTION OF IMPORTED BROOMCORN AND
BROOMCORN BROOMS

Broomcorn and articles made of broomcorn which are required to be treated, under the provisions of regulation 5 of Quarantine No. 41, will be treated by one of the following methods:

I. Vacuum Fumigation:

- (1) The temperature of the stalks and of the fumigation chamber during the fumigation shall be not less than 60° F.
- (2) The dosage for the fumigation shall be 3 pounds of liquid hydrocyanic acid or its equivalent per 1,000 cubic feet of space.
- (3) The air pressure in the fumigation chamber shall be reduced to the equivalent of 2 inches of mercury (a 28-inch vacuum at sea level), after which the hydrocyanic acid shall be introduced and the low pressure held for the duration of the fumigation.
- (4) The exposure shall be not less than 3 hours.

II. Steam Sterilization:

- (1) The air pressure in the treating chamber shall be reduced to the equivalent of 5 inches of mercury (a 25-inch vacuum at sea level).
- (2) Steam shall then be introduced until a positive pressure of 10 pounds is obtained.
- (3) The exposure to the 10-pound positive pressure of steam shall continue for a period sufficient to assure a constant temperature in all parts of the treating chamber, after which the steam may be shut off and the treating chamber exhausted of the uncondensed steam.

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